

PALMETTO PLACE NAMES

Compiled by the Workers of the Writers'
Program of the Works Projects Administration

Oketee-"a place of bright waters".

Beaufort County-Organized in 1768. County seat: Beaufort. County derived its name from the town of Beaufort, which was founded in 1710 and named in honor of the Duke of Beaufort, one of the later Lords Proprietors.
p. 12

Colleton County-Organized in 1798. County seat: Walterboro. Named in honor of Sir John Colleton, one of the original Lords Proprietors. Created in 1682, when the Province of Carolina was divided into three counties.
p. 13

Hampton County-Formed in 1878. County Seat: Hampton. Named in honor of Wade Hampton, governor 1876-79. Carved from old Beaufort District.
p. 16

Jasper County- Formed in 1912. County Seat: Ridgeland. Named in honor of Sergeant William Jasper of Revolutionary War fame, who was mortally wounded in the siege of Savannah, October 9, 1779. The county was carved from Beaufort and Hampton Counties.
p.16

Bluffton-Beaufort County-Derives its name from its location on the river May (le Belle Riviere de la Mai").
p. 26

Bull Point-Beaufort County- Named for the prominent Bull family of Colonial days, who had large land holdings in this section of the state.
p. 30

Coosawhatchie-Jasper County-Organized in 1788. Seat of government of Beaufort District to 1840. Origin of name Indian, meaning, "City of Refuge".
p. 38

Cottageville-Colleton County- Derives its name from the building of cottage by the community for Mrs. H.H. Durant, the widow of a Methodist minister.
p. 39

Datha-Beaufort County-Named for a chief of the Cusabo Indians, Datha meaning "green wood".
p. 40

Early Branch-Hampton County-There are two versions as to the derivation of the name Early. 1. The name was in honor of General Early of who camped with his soldiers at a near-by branch in 1861. 2. It originated in 1806 when a surveyor named Early surveyed the land for the State.
p. 43.

Palmetto Place Names-2

Estill-Named in honor of Colonel R.H. Estill, editor of the Savannah
p. 45 Morning News.

Fort Fremont-A fort erected during the Spanish-American War, and
supposedly named for John C. Fremont, Republican
P. 48 presidential candidate and general in the U.S. Army.

Frogmore-Apparently named after near-by Frogmaore Plantation, the
property of William John Grayson, a writer well known before
p. 49. the Civil War.

Furman-Hampton County. Established in 1901, it bears the name of an
old Negro woman, Mum Lizzie Furman: and is distinctve in
p.49 being the only town in Hampton County named for a Negro.

Garden's Corner- A cross roads so called after Colonel Benjamin
Garden, who once owned a large plantation at thes
p. 50 point.

Garnett-Hampton County-Established 1891. Named for John K. Garnett,
who is said to be the first man to form hunting clubs in
p. 50 South Carolina for wealthy sportsmen from the north.

Gillisonville- The seat of government during 1840-1868 for Beaufort
District. Now a picturesque village without even a post
p.50 office, it is named after the Gillison family.

Green Pond-Probably derived its name from its location, in the low
p. 53 swampy region of the county.

Hilton Head- Named for Captain William Hilton, who had been commiss-
ioned by a party of merchants of the Barbados to seek
p.57 a suitable location for establishing a colony. Aboard
his ship Adventure, he first sighted the headland, now
known as Hilton Head, September 3, 1663. The island
on which the village standx was known at on time as
Trenches Island, but it is now called Hiton Head.

Islandton-Colleton County- Its location in swampy land between the
Salkehatchie and LittleSalkehatchie Rivers suggested its
p.59 name.

Jacksonboro-Colleton County-Near the old colonial town which was
named for John Jackson, to whom the original grant had
p. 59 been given.

Kress-Hampton County- Named for C.W. Kress, owner of nearby
Buckfield plantation and stores bearing his name. Two hundred
p. 62 acres of Buckfield are devoted to the cultrue of narcissi,
yielding twelve million bulbs annually, for sale in Kress
stores all over the country.

Lobeco-Beaufort County-Name is a combination of the names of a
packing firm in theis section-Long, Bellamy and Company.
p. 67 Center for truck growing and shipping activities.

Palmetto Place Names-3

Lodge- Colleton County- Derived its name from the Hope Masonic
p.67 Lodge No. 122.

Luray- Hampton County- Established in 1893. Named By Captain Charles
p.68 R. Fitzs for the Luray Caverns in Virginia.

McPhersonville- Hampton County-Named for the McPherson family, a
p. 71 prominent member of which was John McPherson.

Miley- Hampton County- Named in 1891 for D.E. Miley, a farmer. At
p. 72 that time Mr. Miley occupied the only house in the community,
which was also used for the railroad station.

Okeetee-Originally a Yemassee Indian town in former Indian lands;
p.79 the name means "Place of Bright Waters".

Parker's Ferry-Colleton County- So named because the ferry, now
p.82 discontinued, was operated by a man named Parker.

Parris Island- The United States Governement, which owns the island
calls it Parris after Alexander Parris, who, at one time
p. 82 owned part of the island and who was treasurrer of
the province, 1733.

Pocotaligo- Beaufort County-Named by Yemassee Indians, it being their
chief town after they had settled the Indian Lands in SC,
Settled 1685. There is also a tradition that "cooters"
p.86 were so numerous in the swamp lands that they made
travel difficult and the Negroes gave this advice to the
hunter: "Poke 'e tail, 'e go."

Pon Pon- An Indian name of obscure origin. p. 86

Port Royal-Named by Jean Ribault, 1562, whose French Huguenot colony
exidted for a few months, The namd expresses Ribault's
ambition admiration cor the wide sound and harbor. In
his report to France he said: "It is one the greatest and
p.86 fairest havens of the world, where without danger all the
ships of the world might be harbored."

Purrysburg-Jasper County-Settled between 1732 and 1738. Named for
Jean Pierre Purry of Neufchatel, Switzerland, promoter
and professional colonizer, who secured from the Crown
p.87 48,000 acres quit-rent for ten years on condition that he
settle at a place to serve the safety of the province 600
Swiss Protestant men, women and childre, Listed as a
village in Mills' Statistics, 1826.

Ridgeland-Appears to have derived its name from its topographical
character, as it is situated on a neck or ridge of high
p.90 land surrounded by the Great Swamp.

Ritter- Known as Fish Pond prior to the Civil War. Renamed Ritter about
p.91 1889, honoring Henry Ritter, woh operated a local sotre.

Robertville- Named for family of Henry Martyn Robert (1837-1923), one of the foremost military engineers of his day, Union soldier, and author of Robert's Rules of Order, an authoritative book on parliamentary procedures.
p.92

Round O- The trade name of the Indian Chief, Ocanastota, was a round "O" painted on his chest. The camping ground of this warrior became known as "Round O" and the village goes by that name today.
p. 94

Ruffin- Settled 1894-. Believed to have been named for the Virginian, Edmond Ruffin (1794-1865), a noted scientific agriculturist. He wrote an agricultural survey of S.C., joined a Charleston military company, and on account of his distinction and his being the oldest member of the company, was selected by his comrades to fire the first shot from his battery at Fort Sumter from Morris Island batteries. Ruffin committed suicide because the South lost the War Between the states.
p. 94

Salkehatchie-Colleton County- An Indian name. Prior name Sadkeche.
p.96 Was one of the 10 Yemassee towns.

Scotia-Hampton county-Established in 1900. Named for Scotia Tison, of the firm of Stubbbs, Tison and Co., Savannah, Ga.
p. 97

Sheldon- Named for Sheldon Hall, ancestral home of the Bull family of Carolina.
p. 98

Tillman-Jasper County-Named for B.R. (Pitchfork Ben) Tillman, gov. of S.C. 1890-94.
p.104

Tomotley-Beaufort Co-Originally a town of the Yemassee Indians, the name meaning "Hewed Timber Town".
p.104

Varnville-Founded in 1873, and named for the Rev. Berry Varn, a Methodist Minister.
p.106

Walterboro-Originally named Ireland Creek. Later, each of two citizens Walter and Smith, claimed the honor of having the town named for him. The dispute ended when Walter won a tree felling contest.
p.107

Whitehall-Derives its name from White Hall Plantation, where it is located.
p.109

ISLANDS AND STREAMS

Barnwell Island-The name commemorates an early colonial hero, Colonel John Barnwell, originally from Ireland, who was a notable Indian fighter and later known as "Tuscarora Jack".
p.114

Bermuda Island-Beaufort County-Many of the early settlers of St. Helena Island, Beaufort County, came from Bermuda. T
p.116 They named the island for their former home.

Board River, Beaufort-So called because it is the widest of the several
p.118 confluents of Port Royal Sound.

Bull Island-Beaufort County- So named because of the prominence of the Bull family in colonial affairs and the further fact that the Bull grants extended from the Savannah to the Combahee Rivers.
p.118

Buzzards Island-Beaufort County-Evidently named for the fact that
p.118 buzzards roost in the trees here.

Calpen Bay-Jasper County-This name is reminiscent of the cattle raising occupations of pioneers on the frontiers of Carolina. Early settlers were stock raisers, and many of the place names of today recall this industry.
p. 118

CawCaw River-Hampton County-The name probably originated as a descriptive word imitating the call of the crow.
p.119

Chaplin's Island-Beaufort Co.-The Chaplins were planting on St. Helena as early as 1725, and were still registered among the Beaufort District residents in 1790. Members of the family have been from time to time large landholders in this section.
p.120

Chechesee (Cheekeesee, Chichesse, Chechessa) River-^{Beaufort}~~Colleton~~ County- A river flowing into Port Royal Sound. Chechesee is from the Cusabo Indian language and means "Sunbright Savannah".
p.120

Chehaw River- Colleton County- An Indian name, probably referring to the Chiaha tribe.
p.120

Chisolm Island- Beaufort County-Named for Dr. Robert Chisholm, who successfully grew and shipped olives from the island from about 1830 until the Civil War. Federal soldiers destroyed the trees, using them for firewood.
p.121

Coffin Creek-Named for the Coffin family, who came to St. Helena Is. after 1760.
p.112121

Combahee River -Colleton Co- Derives its name from a tribe of Cusabo Indians who lived on the river.
p.121

Coosaw River- Beaufort Co.- An Indian word meaning "Old Creek". 121

Gewan Cowan Creek-Beaufort Co.- Named for John Cowan, to whom a tract of land had been granted in 1706-7 on St Helena.
p.123

Crane Island-Beaufort- abundance of these birds. 123

Daufuskie-(Dawfuskee) Island-Beaufort- Probably Muskhogean Indian name.
p.124

Dawhaw (Datha, Dathaw) Island-Beaufort- Gets its name from a more or less legendary chief or king of the ~~Cusabo~~ Indians.
p.124

Distant Island-Beaufort- This island is cut off from Warsaw Island.
p.124

Fenwick Island - Beaufort-So named for the Fenwick's, a prominent Dissenter family in the early days of the province.
p.125

Fripp Island-So named for the Fripp family, who were poanting on St Helena as early as 1725, and whose names have been lefor onan inlet as well as thish islnad.
p.127

Hall Island-Beaufort- Hall family who lived on St. helena prior to 1860.
p.129

Harbor River-Beaufort- Derives its name from its charcteristics, similar to those of a harbor, and its relations to the adjacent St. Helena and Port Royal Sounds and Islands.
p.129

Hog Island-Beaufort-Name is reminiscent of the stockraising ndustry of pioneers of early Carolina.
p.130

Horse Island-Beaufort-So named because it was the place where the early English planters bred swift and beautiful animals by crossing the horses which they imported from England with the Chickasaw breed which had been introduced to this country be the Spaniards.
p. 130

Huntin Island-Beaufort-The name is a testimonial to the favorite pasttime of the hunting and fishing planters.
p.131

Jenkins Island-Beaufort-The Jenkins family were among the early settlers who had plantations on St. Helena by 1760, and their descendants have remained generation after generation in the same locality.
p.131

Ladies Island-Beaufort-The name survives from "Our Lady's Island" given by the Spainards during their occupation.
p.132

May River- BEaufort-So namd becuase in the month of May, 1561562, Jean Ribaut landed at the mouth of this river, where he offered thanksgiving for having een safely conducted to h the pleasant land.
p.134

Mud River- BEaufort-Derives its name from the nature of its bottom and ba nkd.
p. 135

Pritchards Island&Reynolds 'sland-Beaufort family's who came and set- in the early days of Carolina.

~~St. Helena Island in 1772~~

St. Helena Island - Beaufort County- In 1526 Pedro de Quexos, pilot of Ayllon's two caravels, sailing northward a hundred leagues from Florida, suddenly came upon a neck of land ~~jutting~~ jutting into the sea. Quexos, in prayerful gratitude to his saint, Elena, for having led him into such good fortune as coming upon a land so fair, when other of his countrymen had met only with tempests and disaster in these waters, christened the headland Punta de Santa Elena in the name of Spain and in honor of the saint. The name St. Helena derives from these early Spaniards. (71)

Sand Island - Jasper County - So Names from the composition of its soild. (1) (20)

South Wimbee Creek - Beaufort County - Names for the Wimbee or Wimbehe, a tribe of Cusabo Indians which seems to have been ~~xx~~ located ~~x~~ between the Combahee and Broad Rivers. (85)

Tullifinney River - Jasper County - This seems to be an Anglicized spelling of the Indian name, Tulufina, the name of a Guale town. Guale, pronounced "Wallie," referred to the area which is now coastal Georgia and its environs. Tulufina appears to have been a place or tribe of importance intimately connected with the interior Indians. (85)

Warsaw Island - Beaufort County - This seems to be decadent form of the word Wassaw, seemingly an Indian word. The Indian derivation of ~~Wan~~ Wausau is from Ojibway or Menomini, Wasa, meaning "far" or "distant". (85)

Whale Branch - Beaufort County - Supposed to have received its name from the fact that a whale found its way into the stream years ago during high water and was unable to get out. (1)

Wimbee Creek - Beaufort County - The Wimbee or Wimbehe were a tribe of Cusabo Indians, and appear to have been located between the Combahee and Broad Rivers. (20) (85)

Zigzag Branch - Beaufort County - Derives its name from its crooked Course. (1)